

Detailed Description of a Preferred Embodiment:

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The invention provides for restoration of lost peer-to-peer transaction records. The invention is particularly useful where rights to access content are received from a content provider, transferred in an online or offline manner among peers in exchange for tokens representing license fees and electronically stored. For example, the access rights may be stored as transaction records in a portable device, such as a smart card. In the event of a loss of the records, e.g., where the portable device fails or is lost, it would be desired to restore the transaction records without the party having to re-purchase the rights for which tokens had already been exchanged. Such a system is described in U.S. Application No. 10/428,810, filed May 1, 2003, ^{still pending} the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. The lost transaction records may include access rights to digital media.

In one embodiment, a demand for restoration of a plurality of lost peer-to-peer transaction records is made. In response, an attempt is made to verify each transaction for the plurality of lost transaction records. This attempt is made through another party to the corresponding transaction. An accuracy indicator is assigned to each transaction to indicate whether the transaction is verified directly through another party to the corresponding transaction. A determination is made as to whether each transaction record of the plurality of lost transaction records should be restored based on the assigned accuracy indicators.

Selected ones of the lost transaction records may then be restored. Restoration may only be of those transaction records that are verified directly. At least one of the lost transaction records may be restored before the transaction is verified through the other party to the transaction. A log of transaction records may be received from each other party to the transactions for the lost transaction records whose record of the transaction is not lost; verification of the transaction records is based on the received logs.

The accuracy indicator may further indicate whether the transaction record for a transaction is verified indirectly through another party to the corresponding transaction and, if so, the accuracy indicator may also indicate the number of parties through which the transaction is verified indirectly. Restoration may be only of those transaction records that are verified directly and those that are verified indirectly through one other party.